



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: 4/8/2004

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**AMERICORPS MEMBERS HELP EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS
MEMBERS SERVE IN GUILFORD, STOKES AND SURRY COUNTIES**

Raleigh - The AmeriCorps and Children Together (ACT) program is helping early childhood providers and teachers in Guilford, Stokes and Surry counties receive additional education and certification. Members serving with the ACT program are placed in early childhood care and education centers to provide assistance and allow teachers time to attend certification classes.

"Members with the AmeriCorps and Children Together program serve our communities in a unique and important way," Easley said. "The time members spend in early childhood facilities allows our teachers to receive additional certification and education, and in turn improve the quality of early childhood care and education in our communities."

Members with the ACT program serve 30 to 40 hours a week, working with children from birth to age 5. They develop and introduce age-appropriate activities for the children each month, and they are also responsible for organizing training for other ACT members.

Currently there are nine ACT members serving in nine facilities in Surry, Guilford and Stokes counties. Last year, ACT members helped serve nearly 800 children and provided enough release time to allow 16 teachers to take classes and gain certification.

In addition to serving in early childhood centers, ACT members also participate in community service projects. Each member volunteers at least eight hours each month with elementary schools, churches and organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

"During my time as an AmeriCorps member, I have not only been able to help teachers, childcare providers and children, but have also had the opportunity to further my education and childcare credentials," said Katrina Monroy, a two-year AmeriCorps member serving with the ACT program. "The ACT program has allowed me to be more involved in my community and really offer a helping hand to teachers."